THE SWORD

May 11, 2025

LMCC
LAWRENCE & MARDER
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Psalm 28:7 (KJV)
The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusted in him,
and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth;
and with my song will I praise him.

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00 A.M.
Sunday Worship Experience: 10:00 A.M.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 P.M.

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Word of Week

Pure: hagnos <G53>

In ancient Greek, hagnos (<G53>, **pure,** clean) originally carried a religious meaning and spoke of ritual cleanness, chastity, and even virginity. The same basic concept was also true of Septuagint use.

In NT usage, however, the idea of ritual purity was no longer the point, and rightly so. The NT deals with *reality,* not *ritual.* Being a Christian is not just about *how we act,* but *who we are.* It all started, of course, with the Lord Jesus. As 1 John 3:3 declares, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." Because Christ was pure (without sin), we also *are* pure and, therefore, are to *live* pure.

An interesting occurrence of hagnos appears in 2 Corinthians 11:2: "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." While the term *chaste* **virgin** (see Apr. 16) might seem like ritual, it's actually quite real. The setting of the verse is Paul's desire that the Corinthian believers (and by application *all* believers) would remain pure from false doctrine. He pictures this by comparing the church to a bride and Christ to the bridegroom. Just as the bride is to remain pure before the wedding, the believer is to remain pure as he or she awaits the coming of Christ. False teaching is everywhere, and it's vital that we remain **pure.**

This verse is also a great encouragement to both young ladies and young men to remain pure for marriage. Success or failure in a marriage often hinges on this. If a person remains pure before marriage, he or she will better understand "the covenant of companionship" that marriage is (Mal. 2:14; see Sept. 23). But if one is impure before marriage, there is a greater chance that he or she will be impure after marriage. Fidelity is nonexistent in many marriages today often because of the sexual attitudes that were held before marriage.

There is much in the world that is impure and that will taint the Christian. We each must take care to keep ourselves pure. To that end, Paul further challenges us all to **think** on things that are pure (Phil. 4:8; see Aug. 5ff.).

Scriptures for Study: Besides things that are pure, what other things should the Christian think about and do (Phil. 4:8-9; see Aug. 5-10)? What does James 3:17 speak of that is pure?

Minister's Minutes

Reverence

"Lord, thou art God, and hast promised this goodness unto thy servant." (1 Chronicles 17:26)

David wanted to build a Temple, but God said David could not build a Temple. David's son would build it instead. David did not complain and pout as many of us do when God says, "No." Rather, David bowed humbly before God in respectful submission to God. It was a noble response to God's refusal. Our verse today is part of David's response to God's refusal. In the response David demonstrates much reverence for God in the way he speaks of the person of God, the promises of God, and the position before God.

Person of God. "Lord, thou art God." The word "Lord" refers to "Jehovah" or "Yahweh" however one wants to spell it in English. This name was the special name for God given the Israelites. David is simply acknowledging here that God is God; and therefore, God has the right to decide who does what, when, where, and how. When we complain about God's will, we are saying we do not want God to be God. We do not want Him to have the final word. But if we are going to give due reverence to God, we must honor Him as God. His wisdom and will must be acknowledged as supreme.

Promises of God. "God . . . hast promised this goodness." God promised David that his seed would sit on the throne of Israel. David is referring to that promise here. Instead of fussing about not being able to build the Temple, David focuses on the blessed promises of God and rejoices in them. We need to do the same. The Bible is full of wonderful promises from God. When some desire of yours is denied by God, do not fuss but instead focus on the promises of God. It will cause you to rejoice instead of repine.

Position before God. "Thy servant." Before God our position is that of a servant. Being His servants means we must submit to His commands and do His bidding. All people are servants. They serve either sin or the Sovereign (Romans 6:22). Wise men will choose to serve the Sovereign God. And serving God is a great privilege and honor. It beats any position this world can offer.

Announcements

- Let us keep all those who have lost loved ones, and those hospitalized, in our thoughts and prayers.
- We would like to wish a happy birthday and/or anniversary to everyone who is celebrating this week.
- Attention, church family! To ensure that all announcements and print requests are processed in a timely manner, please submit them by **Wednesday at 7:00 PM** of the preceding week **to church@landmcoc.org**. We understand that emergencies may arise, and we will do our best to accommodate urgent requests. However, **verbal, written, or texted announcements during the Sunday worship experience are strongly discouraged** to maintain the flow and reverence of our service. Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our worship experience focused and organized!
- If anyone would like to assist with transportation for Crossroads/LMCC Food Distribution please see brother Mac Fulbright.
- Lawrence and Marder 5-Year Luncheon will be at Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen (3520 Oak Lawn Avenue, Dallas, TX) on August 16, 2025 from 3PM-6PM. Cost is $60 per person ($12 for 12 and younger) and must be made no later than August 3, 2025.
- LMCC Ladies Annual Mother's Day Luncheon will be today at 1 pm. It will be at Celebration Restaurant (4503 W Lovers Lane, Dallas, TX). You will be responsible for paying for your own meal.
- Citywide Lectureship: Sunday - Wednesday at the Cedar Crest Congregation. Sunday at 5PM, Monday - Wednesday at 6:45PM
- If you would like to volunteer to help with the 5-Year Congregational Dinner or the 100 Year Anniversary please see Felton Davenport, Mac Fulbright, Reginald Osborne, George Robinson, Gary Walker.
- Sunday Morning Worship experience can be watched on the church website: www.landmcoc.org/broadcast; Church Facebook Page and YouTube Channel. Please "Like" and "Share".
- Children's Worship Hour is for children Pre-K through 4th grade.
- Church Zoom Information for Adults and Youth Wednesday Night Class: **Meeting ID: 915 0578 2664 Password: 859242 Call In Number: 1-346-248-7799**

Continuous Announcements

- Every 2nd Sunday Marsalis Avenue host a Zoom Grief Support Meeting at 4PM (Meeting ID: 880 4065 3591, Passcode: 411521)
- California Avenue Church of Christ in Bakersfield, CA host a Sunday Evening Spiritual Encouragement Hour each week on Zoom at 7:30PM central time (Meeting ID: 875 1387 3553, Passcode: 1020cal#)

What is the Plan of Salvation?

I Peter 1:20 (NASB) says, "For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you." Before God said let there be light, the plan for mankind's salvation had already been created by the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Before God formed man from the dust of the earth, the heavenly trinity had already established a plan for the redemption of mankind. Before God beheld that all He created was "very good" and decided to rest on the seventh day, the Godhead formulated a mystery that would be revealed to reunite mankind with God. We must be thankful to God that His love for us reached back before there was an us. In knowing this, we should follow after the WORD that was made flesh and dwelt amongst us without hesitation. Jesus the Christ is everything that we need (II Peter 1:2–4).

Hear the Gospel of <u>Jesus the Christ</u> (Romans 10:14). One must hear the glorious message that Jesus the Christ sacrificially died for the penalty of our sin, and that he was raised from the dead by the power of God.

Believe in <u>Jesus the Christ</u> (Hebrews 11:6). One must believe that Jesus was more than just a man, but the Christ.

Repent in the name of <u>Jesus the Christ</u> (Luke 24:46–47). Repentance is required; however, it is not said to take away sin, but rather it produces in us a desire to be vindicated by Jesus the Christ.

Confess that <u>Jesus the Christ</u> is the Son of God (Acts 8:36–37). A person must be willing to make the greatest proclamation ever known to mankind, and that is Jesus the Christ is the Son of God.

Be baptized for the remission of sins in the name of <u>Jesus the Christ</u> (Acts 2:38). Baptism is not a sign of salvation, but rather a New Testament requirement for salvation. The action emulates our Lord and Savior's death, burial and resurrection.

Being faithful until death like <u>Jesus the Christ</u> (Philippians 2:4–8). If we stay faithful to God's will, God's word and God's way, we will have a home not made with hands awaiting us some day.

What is the Plan of Salvation? How do I become a Christian?

Sermon Notes for May 11, 2025

Speaker: Ramon Hodridge

Text: _____

Title: _____

Notes: _____

Minister's Email: minister@landmcoc.org

QR CODES

VISITOR CHECK-IN

MEMBERSHIP CHECK-IN

RESPONSE CARD REQUEST